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1           WHEREAS, the use of humane alternatives provides students  
2 freedom to practice at their own pace, to learn by trial and  
3 error and to repeat procedures without the high costs  
4 associated with using real animals; and

5           WHEREAS, there are health risks to teachers and students  
6 through exposure to formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, during  
7 animal dissection; and

8           WHEREAS, animal dissection requires that millions of  
9 formaldehyde-soaked specimens be discarded, and the federal  
10 environmental protection agency has designated formaldehyde as  
11 a hazardous air pollutant, water pollutant and waste  
12 constituent, thereby posing a risk to the environment and  
13 public health; and

14           WHEREAS, there are four major loan libraries that  
15 currently provide schools with free alternatives to real animal  
16 dissection, allowing teachers to try out various alternatives  
17 before purchasing them for their schools; and

18           WHEREAS, virtual anatomy software, videos and models are  
19 often cheaper than the purchase of animals for a single year's  
20 practical courses and can be reused in subsequent years; and

21           WHEREAS, use of alternative methods is cost-effective and  
22 can save between two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700)  
23 and nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$9,600) per classroom  
24 over a three-year period;

25           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department study  
2 the use of virtual anatomy as an acceptable alternative method  
3 of study; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study ensure that the  
5 academic class requirements requiring animal dissection can be  
6 fulfilled through virtual anatomy alternatives; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the public education department.

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